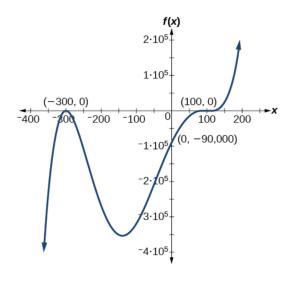
Exercise 74

For the following exercises, use the graphs to write a polynomial function of least degree.



Solution

Use the labelled x-intercepts to write the model polynomial function.

$$f(x) = A(x+300)^2(x-100)^3$$

The factor (x + 300) is squared because the graph bounces back after hitting the x-axis, and the factor (x - 100) is cubed because locally at x = 100 the graph is cubic. Use the labelled y-intercept to determine A.

$$-90\,000 = A(0+300)^2(0-100)^3 \quad \rightarrow \quad -90\,000 = A(-90\,000\,000\,000) \quad \rightarrow \quad A = \frac{1}{1\,000\,000}$$

Therefore,

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1000000}(x+300)^2(x-100)^3.$$